

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A cable modem comprising:

a cable modem proper that is ~~configured so as to be connected by way of a coaxial cable to a CATV network and so as to communicate information to/ from the CATV network and the cable modem proper;~~

an expansion unit ~~being configured so as to have having a wireless LAN function that permits communication with an information processing terminal on a wireless basis, where the information processing terminal is located remote from the cable modem;~~ and

B1 a connecting member that removably ~~and operably~~ couples the cable modem proper and the expansion unit together by use of a plug and a connector, ~~wherein when the expansion unit is operably coupled to the cable modem proper, information is communicated to/ from the CATV network and the remotely located information processing terminal via the cable modem proper and the expansion unit.~~

2. (ORIGINAL) A cable modem as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the plug is a plug for a LAN cable and the connector is a connector for a LAN cable.

3. (ORIGINAL) A cable modem as claimed in claim 1,

wherein a bit error rate of the expansion unit is measured at regular time intervals so that an output level and a data transfer rate are varied according to measurement results in order to keep communication quality above a predetermined level.

4. (ORIGINAL) A cable modem as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the cable modem has a function of transmitting information on how much to increase or decrease the output level according to the measurement results to an interface portion of the information processing terminal that communicates with the cable modem on a wireless basis.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A cable modem as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the cable modem proper comprises circuitry including a tuner, a demodulator, a modulator, a first and a second medium access controller, and a CPU,

the tuner selecting information received from the CATV network, converting the selected information into an intermediate frequency and then feeding it to the demodulator, and conversely transmitting information fed from the modulator to the CATV network,

the first medium access controller classifying information fed from the demodulator and information fed through the expansion unit from the information processing terminal into signals to be processed inside the cable modem and signals to be transmitted to the information processing terminal and to the CATV network,

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the second medium access controller converting and exchanging data between the cable modem proper and the expansion unit.

6. (ORIGINAL) A cable modem as claimed in claim 5,
wherein the CPU controls direction and timing in and with which to output information.

7. (ORIGINAL) A cable modem as claimed in claim 5,
wherein the CPU measures a bit error rate and controls an output level of the expansion unit according to the measured bit error rate.

8. (ORIGINAL) A cable modem as claimed in claim 5,
wherein the CPU measures a bit error rate and controls a data transfer rate according to the thus measured bit error rate.

9. (NEW) A cable modem as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the cable modem proper includes a coupling mechanism that is configured and arranged so the cable modem is configurable to perform either wired or wireless communications, where when wireless communications are desired the expansion unit is operably coupled to the cable modem proper via the coupling mechanism.

Bit
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10. (NEW) A cable modem as claimed in claim 5,
wherein the cable modem circuitry further includes a coupling mechanism that is
configured and arranged so the cable modem is configurable to perform either wired or wireless
communications, where when wireless communications are desired the expansion unit is
operably coupled to the cable modem proper via the coupling mechanism.

11. (NEW) A cable modem as claimed in claim 1,
wherein when the cable modem proper and the expansion unit are operably coupled to
each other, a unitary structure is thereby formed.

12. (NEW) A cable modem as claimed in claim 5,
wherein when the cable modem proper and the expansion unit are operably coupled to
each other, a unitary structure is thereby formed.

13. (NEW) A cable modem as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the cable modem proper is configured so as to include one of the plug or the
connector and wherein the expansion unit is configured so as to include the other of the plug or
the connector.

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